

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Commission**

ITEM

12

INFORMATION

TOPIC

Proposed Rule – Chapter 43 – Water Supplies – Design and Operation

The Commission will be asked to discuss the plans to draft a Notice of Intended Action to amend Chapters 40 and 43: Scope of Division – Definitions – Forms – Rules of Practice; and Water Supplies – Design and Operation of the Iowa Administrative Code (IAC).

The chapters pertain to the water supply requirements for design and operation. The changes being proposed would create a General Permit for the Construction of Minor Water Main Extensions and Replacements.

Currently, a water system must obtain a construction permit prior to construction of any water distribution system extension or replacement. Rural water systems can receive requests to connect to their system from landowners who have had well trouble or when they happen to be working in the area. These minor extensions to the system do not raise any operation or safety concerns as long as the system can maintain adequate pressures. Applying for and issuing a construction permit can take longer than many of these situations call for from a business perspective of the system and a regulatory perspective.

To obtain a General Permit to Construct Minor Water Mains, the system would need to have on file with the Iowa DNR an approved up to date hydraulic analysis of the system and approved standard specifications for water main construction. Only minor water main extensions included in the hydraulic analysis would be covered under the general permit. The system would be required to submit an updated hydraulic analysis to the department for review initially and then annually thereafter. The system would also be required to annually submit as-built plans of all water mains constructed under the general permit along with the appropriate application schedules and the construction permit application fee.

The Department has discussed this issue with the Iowa Rural Water Association and will be forwarding copies of the proposed rule to other drinking water utility stakeholder groups for comment.

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